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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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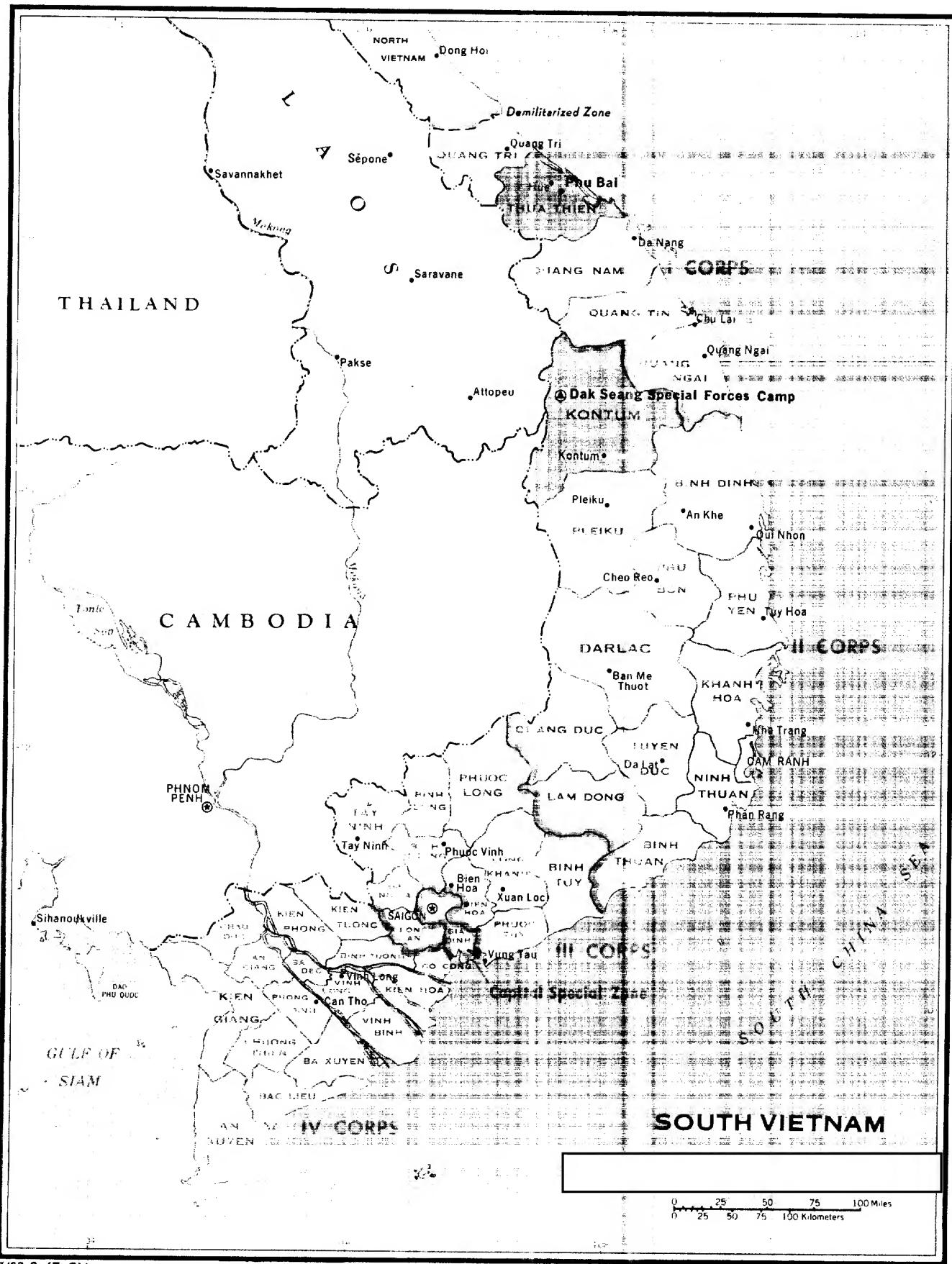
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Congo (Kinshasa): Congo-US tensions fluctuate
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The official campaign regulations designed to allocate equal opportunities to the 11 presidential candidates show signs of breaking down.

The cancellation of the campaign tour of the civilian candidates to the northern provinces yesterday because of bad weather is likely to generate prompt criticism of the government for its handling of campaign facilities. [redacted]

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the major contenders, Chief of State Thieu, Tran Van Huong, and Phan Khac Suu, do not intend to show up for many of the 22 scheduled joint appearances throughout the country. Moreover, the initial television presentation of the candidates on 3 August appeared to have been rigged to favor the government ticket.

Unless the regime takes steps to assure equal facilities to all the candidates, charges of election rigging may be made during the campaign.

A South Vietnamese Army battalion was heavily engaged yesterday by an estimated two NVA battalions approximately three miles west of the Dak Seang Special Forces Camp in Kontum Province. Preliminary casualty figures indicate that eight South Vietnamese soldiers have been killed. Enemy losses were estimated at 87 killed. Reinforcements were being deployed into the battle area early today.

In the past 48 hours there have been no reports of other large-scale engagements. Several widely scattered guerrilla-type incidents, some aimed at the government's Revolutionary Development programs, were reported.

(continued)

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The accidental fire at the Phu Bai ammunition depot on 5 August destroyed approximately 750 tons of mortar and small arms ammunition. A replacement shipment, however, was scheduled to arrive on 6 August. US operations in the northern part of the country are reportedly unaffected.

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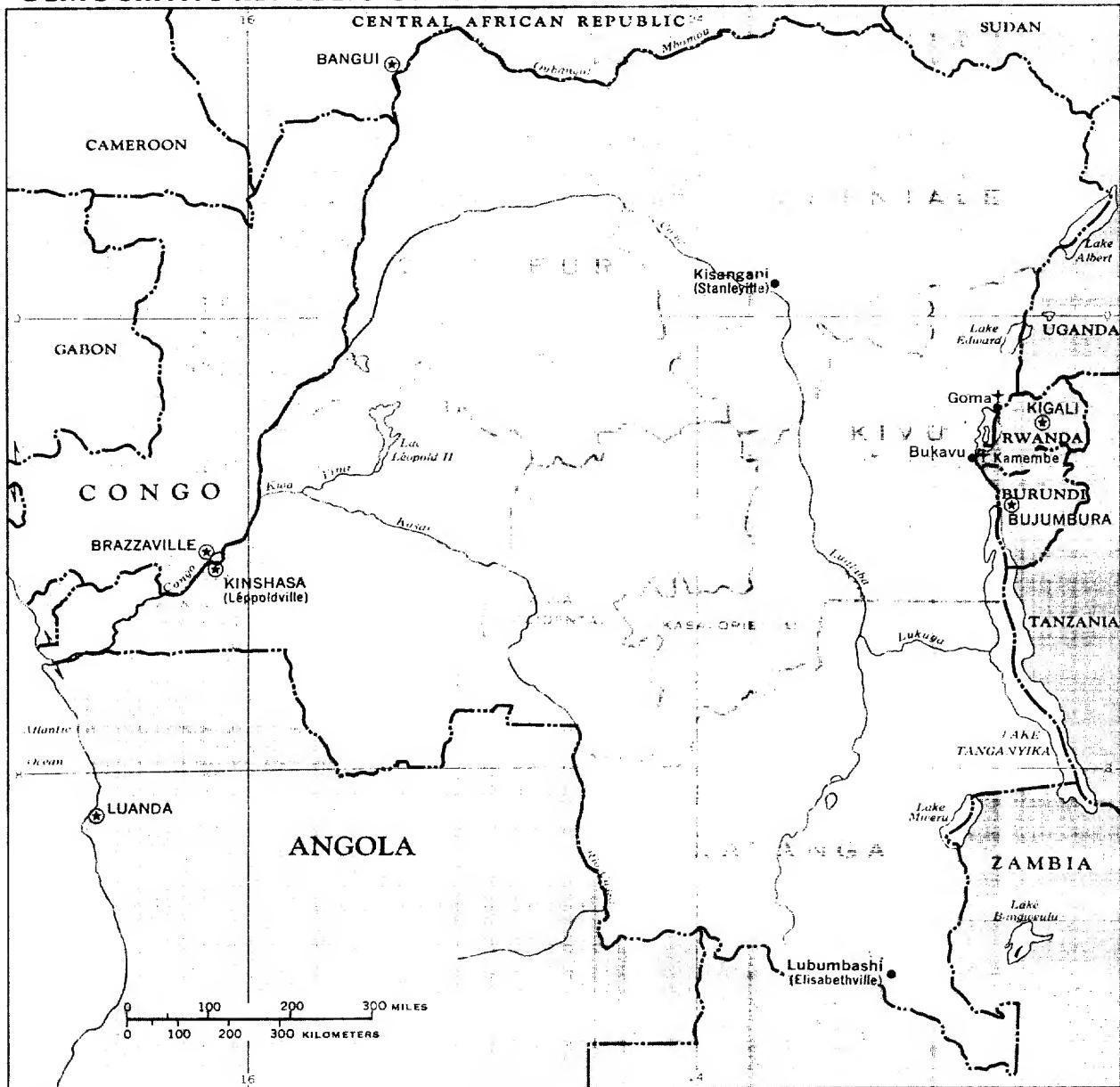
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



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Congo (Kinshasa): Tensions between US and Congolese officials, raised by an anti-American outburst by President Mobutu during the weekend, have eased, but a further deterioration in the northeast could rekindle the President's wrath.

Two unrelated incidents--Congolese expulsion of three Associated Press newsmen and US refusal to send its aircraft into the Bukavu area to supply troops--were linked by the President and later in an anti-American broadcast by Congo Radio on 5 August. President Mobutu agreed to discontinue the radio broadcasts, but the story later appeared on television; Mobutu claims to have forgotten about his newest media.

The US decision to stop flights into Rwanda's Kamembe airport, near Bukavu, followed an incident on 3 August when Congolese civilian refugees jeopardized the plane's take-off. Agreement was subsequently reached to send the requested air supply mission to Goma, about 100 miles north of Bukavu.

The security situation in the northeast, meanwhile, continues uncertain. The slow-moving mercenary column was spotted a few miles north of Bukavu on the morning of 6 August when it was fired on by Congolese troops. At Kamembe, the mercenaries might hope to escape by air.

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Greece: King Constantine appears to be largely reconciled to the coup regime.

Constantine has told a US official that he is now quite impressed with coup leader Papadopoulos, whom he believes is highly intelligent and greatly overshadows the rest of the junta.

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The King, although still very wary of Papadopoulos, now believes he should work for the full backing of Papadopoulos who "generally controls the cabinet." When he was first faced with the "colonels' coup" of 21 April, one of Constantine's prime objectives was to get the "generals" back in command.

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The King also stated that he had been discussing a proposed Cyprus solution with Papadopoulos and Prime Minister Kollias. He said that the Greek Government wants to start discussions with Turkey as soon as possible. Constantine said that Athens is prepared to offer as yet undecided concessions to Turkey if Ankara's demands are not too great.

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